

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/EP2004/014167

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 H01L21/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 H01L H01F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, PAJ, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 5 834 825 A (IMAI KIYOTAKA) 10 November 1998 (1998-11-10) claims 1-5 column 4, line 15 - line 26 column 5, line 27 - line 38	1-16
Y	US 6 396 122 B1 (LIU Q Z ET AL) 28 May 2002 (2002-05-28) claims 1-4,8 figures 7,13,15 column 1, line 66 column 3, line 19 - line 45 column 5, line 30 - line 65 column 6, line 15 - line 34 column 11, line 4 - line 50 ----- -/--	1-16

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
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- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- *&* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

10 February 2005

Date of mailing of the international search report

18/02/2005

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	DATABASE WPI Week 0407 Derwent Publications Ltd., London, GB; AN 2004-065798 XP002276147 & JP 2003 347123 A (TAIYO YUDEN CO) 5 December 2003 (2003-12-05) abstract	1-16
Y	----- PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 1995, no. 11, 26 December 1995 (1995-12-26) & JP 07 211865 A (FUJITSU LTD), 11 August 1995 (1995-08-11) abstract	1-16
A	----- DE 195 33 050 A (VACUUMSCHMELZE GMBH) 13 March 1997 (1997-03-13) claims 1,16,17,20 figure 3 -----	1,14

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US 5834825	A	10-11-1998	JP	2765547 B2	18-06-1998
			JP	9186291 A	15-07-1997
			KR	231321 B1	15-11-1999
US 6396122	B1	28-05-2002	NONE		
JP 2003347123	A	05-12-2003	NONE		
JP 07211865	A	11-08-1995	NONE		
DE 19533050	A	13-03-1997	DE	19533050 A1	13-03-1997